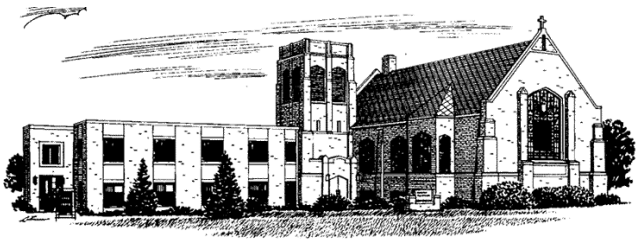
SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: roll1mc@gmail.com
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Nanci Fenrick, Financial Secretary
Danielle Hohman, Child Care

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

November 2017

November is the month in which we often think of thankfulness. Of course, there is the Thanksgiving holiday. Yet we know there are as many ways to show thanks as there are people to offer it. Naturally, we may think of our time at worship when we give thanks to God. We are also mindful of a variety of other ways of showing thanks - a card, a batch of cookies, a visit, a smile. Through these various things we can offer not only our thanks, but our support.

One of our own, Sarah Burrow, is presently serving overseas. Over the next three weeks (October 29, Nov. 5 & 12) we will be collecting cards and notes to send her from her faith community. You may bring a card in, or there will be note cards at church to write. Along with the cards we will send a care package for her use, and to share. Items to be collected, as suggested by Sarah, are batteries (AA or AAA, non-lithium), granola type bars, pop tarts, and BelVita breakfast bites (a personal favorite of Sarah). There is also opportunity to donate money that will be used for postage.

Look for more opportunities to share with Sarah in the future. In anticipation of your contributions, I say "thank you."

Pastor Joan

Thank you to the Saron community for acknowledging my 10 years of ministry at Saron with a cake and plant. What a joy it is to serve with you and among you!

ADULT INQUIRER'S (New Member) CLASS
A gathering for those interested in learning more about the Christian faith from the Lutheran perspective or joining Saron is being planned. If you are interested, please let Pastor know.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; and **Bernice Koski** is at Woodland Terrace: **Virginia Anserello** is at Pine Ridge, Stevensville; **Dorothy Bennett** is at Hanson Home in Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – **California**
Sarah Deal Burrow – Afghanistan

Office Hours at Saron
Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9:30 AM - 11 AM+
Nanci (financial secretary): Weds afternoon
Call for other times/changes
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in November 2017.

Nov. 4 - Laurel Gacek
7 - Meredith Gacek
8 - Andrew Marquardt
11 - Rosemary Bell
13 - Carter Hohman
15 - Coanne Hohman
19 - Brent Dipert
22 – Laraine Taylor
23 - Jean Pearson
Ruth Ball
25 - David Lundgren
27 - Gene Embree
28 - Melanie McCammon
30 - Denise Cook

November Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members in November 2017.

Nov. 1 - Ryan and Kelli Christman
7 - Michael and Laura Chaddock
21 - Mark and Deborah Vollmer
22 - Walter and Sally Schmuhl
John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

Congratulations!

We offer our best wishes to Kate Genellie and Scott Kohs who celebrated their marriage at Saron on September 3.

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday Nov 5 –
All Saints Sunday
Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday Nov 12 –
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

Sunday Nov 19 –
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (12)
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Sunday Nov 26 –
Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 95:1-7a (7)
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE

On All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2017, we will remember at worship those who have gone before us and have joined the church triumphant. If you would like someone to be remembered, please fill contact the church office by October 29.

Nursery Help Needed

We are seeking a paid child care worker, age 18 or above. If you know of someone interested, please contact Mary Kynast or Pastor. Also, we always welcome more volunteers for the nursery. If you can help, please sign up at church or let Marilyn Lucy or Krin Jurgensen know of your willingness.

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

A word from Father Martin
In commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation celebrated this year, we hear a word attributed to Father Martin:

November 5
"God is as present in your cabbage soup as in the sacrament. The difference is that God is hidden in the soup and revealed in the sacrament."

November 12
"Oh that I could pray the way this dog watches the meat!"

November 19
"[Give] yourself in service to your neighbor just as you see that Christ has given himself for you."

November 26
"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all"

Youth

Youth Group Meeting November 5th

The Saron Youth Group will meet from 12:30 until 2:30 on 11/5/17 to play board games and have lunch. Scott will have plenty of games, but if there is one you would like to play, bring it along! We'll also discuss upcoming projects and the youth gathering. Everyone is encouraged to bring a friend!

If you're an adult and would like to get involved, contact Scott at scottgaspari@outlook.com.

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Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Learning Hour News

Classes for ages 2 yrs – adults happens each Sunday morning at 9:40. Please join us!

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

A Thursday November 9th from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Bible study continues. We are studying ***By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism***. This resource helps us connect our life today to the biblical and historical context of the Small Catechism. **The cost of the book is $12.00 which can be paid at class. Newcomer are always welcome.**

Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study

Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study meets at 6:00pm at the church. At 7:00pm we adjourn for a meal and fellowship. The Bible Study will meet each week through the fall until its Advent break. All men are invited to join us. As the Bible says "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17). For more information call Bob Kynast at 269-921-2786.

Ephesus Bible Study Group

Ephesus group will meet Sunday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the home of Don and Carol Hafer, 2330 Autumn Ridge, St, Joseph. Questions, call Carol at 269-470-2255. The program will be a video with Morgan Freeman. The Ephesus Group is always welcoming new folks to their study.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will again resume on November 4th at the Galley Grill in Stevensville at 9:00 a.m.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

November 5th, 6:30 in the upstairs lounge, is our next meeting. Today Will Be Different, by Maria Semple, is up for discussion. How often have we uttered the four words in this book's title? The author attempts to deal with it. Receiving kudos from all the major book review sources, Semple brings to life, Eleanor Flood, a woman who thinks she's a mess in all areas of her life. Eleanor sets out to reinvent herself. The result is a surprise you won't see coming, guaranteed!

December 3rd we have chosen News of the World, by Paulette Jiles. This beautifully written novel was a finalist for the National Book Award. Amazon's review says it all. "In the aftermath of the Civil War, an aging itinerant news reader agrees to transport a young captive of the Kiowa Indians back to her people in this exquisitely rendered, morally complex novel.....that explores the boundaries of family, responsibility, honor and trust".

For the rest of our reading season, here are the selections:

February 11, 2018 Lilac Girls,
by Martha Hall Kelly

March 4, 2018 The Art of Arranging Flowers,
by Lynn Branard

April 1, 2018 Take This Bread, by Sara Miles

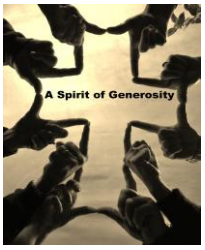
May 6, 2018 Anything is Possible,
by Elizabeth Strout

Please join us and bring a friend. Questions? Call Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354) or kcowall@hotmail.com.

"The world was hers for the reading." (Betty Smith, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn)

Support

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



….with glad and generous hearts, praising God …. Acts 2:46c

Commitment Sunday is November 12 this year. It is a time set aside for us to recommit ourselves to Saron's mission of furthering Christ's work by worshiping each Sunday, serving our neighbor, and by sharing our abundance.

You will receive a Commitment Package in the mail with a Commitment Sheet for you to return to Saron. **Please fill out the commitment sheet** and return it EVEN if you cannot make a financial commitment at this time. It also has a letter from Pastor, a letter from the Stewardship Committee, and a sheet explaining how the Simply Giving process works. Simply Giving sets up a giving procedure where your pledge is automatically deducted from your specified account. It is especially handy for those people who are out of town and still wish to have their giving occur on a regular basis. But even if you're here in St. Joseph most of the year, it is a very easy, efficient way of keeping your pledge up to date.

We thank God for all the blessings He has given Saron. We bow in gratitude for the generosity of all who make Saron an active, giving and growing congregation. **"God's Work. Our Hands."** is not just a slogan. It is a living, working embodiment of our mission here in Southwest Michigan and around the world. **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

God's Work. Our Hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric Standen or Nanci Fenrick

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

September 28, 2017, Saron joyfully served 147 meals to the folks at the SK! The Soup Kitchen provides a caring, safe environment, where anyone can gather for a nutritious meal, always provided by community volunteers.

Special thanks, this month, to these members, who provided milk, cookies and prepared the noon meal: Pastor Joan, Kathie and Dave Bradley, Jim Oleson, Coanne Hohman, Ruth Ball, Mary Alice Brunner, Richard and Marlene Schalon, Keith Stevens, Colleen Lundgren, Sue Rood, Sue Harris, Karen Hinckley, and Judi Huff. "God's Work. Our Hands."

*******Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2017, Saron will be providing a few delicious "extras" for the SK meal. We'll be collecting cans of **WHOLE BERRY CRANBERRY SAUCE**. There will be a designated basket in the narthex.
Thank you, Jan Stevens

LARGE or SMALL cans of fruit, for use at the Soup Kitchen, are always needed.
God's Blessings to all, Jan Stevens

Blood Drive scheduled

Saron's October Blood Drive, sponsored by Michigan Blood, unfortunately had to be rescheduled. We are now planning our Blood Drive to be held in January, 2018. At this time we do not have a date, hopefully near the end of January. Please consider giving the GIFT of LIFE!
Thank you, Keith Stevens and Marilyn Lucy

Thank You note

Enjoy reading the Thank You note regarding the school supplies collected during Saron's "God's Work.Our Hands. "Sunday in September, 2017.

Dear Saron Lutheran Congregation,

We, the staff here at Lybrook Elementary, in Eau Claire, would like to thank you for collecting and donating school supplies for us. As teachers we are in constant need of some basic supplies, which your church so graciously gave to us. We cannot thank you enough for thinking of our little school and providing for us in such a big way! Thank you and may God bless you all.

Sincerely, Lybrook Staff

ELCA GOOD GIFTS - ADVENT TREE ORNAMENTS - 2017

Last year, the ELCA sponsored this program for the first time. Of course Saron's members were very supportive of purchasing the ornaments. The congregation is encouraged to take the ornament home as a reminder of their support of ELCA Good Gifts. The ornament makes a wonderful, holiday gift for family and friends.
More info to come - "God's Work. Our Hands."
Outreach, Amy Nelson and Jan Stevens

Operation Coats

WSL
Women's Service League
Operation Coats
Each October, Women's Service League collects and distributes thousands of free coats to men, women, and children living in Berrien County. This event has helped thousands of people keep warm through the tough Michigan winters for over 20 years.
Please donate gently worn coats, hats, and mittens in any size to keep our neighbors warm this winter.
Thank you for your Donations.
(269) 235-9930
www.womensserviceleague.org

Saron is a collection site for Operation Coats, a project of the Women's Service League. You may bring your donation of a coat through Nov. 6th.

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

The Saron Church Women Annual Meeting will meet on Wednesday, November 8th, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge. All women of Saron are welcome to attend. Business matters will be discussed and voted upon. Thankoffering will be collected. Kathy Cowall and Darlene Kiessel will be the hostesses.

Dorcas Circle

Thank you to the women who oiled all the door hinges throughout the entire church!

Saron Church Women

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who contributed items for Lutheran World Relief. The total was 59 personal care kits, 7 fabric kits, and 40 bars of extra soap. The amount donated for postage/shipping was $287.30. Thanks to Marilyn Lucy, Colleen Lundgren, Frieda Williams and Melanie McCammon for boxing up the kits. Thanks, also, to Dale and Marilyn Lucy for transporting everything to the collection site in Portage. All donations are greatly appreciated and will be used by many people in need. Thanks, again.

MEET ME AT THE FREEZER

What is this ministry? Who is it for? Who can take these meals? Where are the meals? These are frequently asked questions regarding this Outreach ministry.

Martin Luther stated that it was the church's responsibility to CARE FOR PEOPLE, and that is what MMATF is all about! Simply said, ANYONE can take a meal and give it to ANYONE who needs it! The meals are located in the dining room freezer, help yourself .
If you are interested in helping in this program. Please contact Jan Stevens

Facilities

USED INK CARTRIGES NEEDED

Please save your used ink cartridges as it saves the church money in office supplies. There is a collection box in the Narthex.

New Dishwasher Installed at Saron

A new Hobart Dishwasher has been installed in the kitchen at Saron. PLEASE NOTE. There is no need to add any chemicals when doing a load. DO NOT ADD ANY SOAP, DETERGENT, SANITIZERS OR RINSE AIDE when operating the dishwasher. The new machine is programmed to dispense detergent, sanitizer and drying aids at the proper time during the wash cycle from supply bottles located in a cabinet to the left of the washer. Therefore, there is no need to add any chemicals to the load. It's all done automatically.

Council News

Saron Lutheran Church Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee met to review its mission with former and new members which consisted of David Bailey, Chair; Dennis Lundgren, Treasurer; Bob Deaton, Secretary; Marilyn Frey, Bob Kynast, Karen Hinckley and Pastor Joan Oleson. The mission of the Endowment Committee is to support missions to aid persons both locally and internationally and provide improvements to Saron's facilities. The Committee balances the giving to each of these three goals annually to insure funds are available for growth of each.

The funding suggestions are received and evaluated by the committee and reviewed and approved by the Church Council before awarding. The allocation for this period was to be made for local areas and those selected and recommended by the Committee were for the Well of Grace Ministries and the Berrien County Sheriff Chaplains.

The Well of Grace Ministries has three programs, H20, a program for adolescent girls; Oasis, a program for Adult women; and Dewpoint, a program for Women with eating disorders.
The Berrien County Sheriff Chaplains are in need for protective uniform wear to help them work with officers while helping in dangerous situations. This is part of the victim service unit.

Awards of $1,400 and $1,000 were made and approved respectively for these organizations along with an additional $1,100 added to our reserve for education, which would assist any member of our church desiring to enter the ministry.

Since its inception, the Endowment Committee has awarded over $50,000 for the three areas it focuses on for improvement to missions and facilities. The Committee is always seeking the needs of any mission that may be assisted by its funding and encourages members to inform Committee members of needs of any any program that may further their mission.

Bob deaton_robert@hotmail.com

Financial Secretary News

We welcome Nanci who plans to work in the office on Wednesday afternoons, beginning at approximately 2:30. You can reach Nanci at the office during that time. She is also open to phone calls at 269/845-2595 or an e-mail at **nanci0126@yahoo.com**

Attendance Record	
09/24/2017	*85*
10/01/2017	*83*
10/08/2717	*89*
10/15/2017	*99*
10/22/2017	*91*

Saron's Council Members – 2017

Karen Hinckley (326-0688) – President
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Secretary

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Brad Frey (921-8618) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Nolan Becker (269-558-3252) – Youth*
Matt Bradley (419-306-5780) – Support*
Tyler Cook (269-930-2810) – Hospitality*
Judi Huff (473-5075) – Hospitality*
Amy Nelson (920-227-5354) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273) office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

November 2017

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP –
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017,
7:00 P.M.

Mid-Week Wednesdays
December 6, 13, & 20

6:00 Soup Supper
7:00 Worship

Saron
November Volunteer Schedule

	November 5 ***All Saints Day***		***November 12*** ***Commitment Sunday***		***November 19*** ***Christ the King Sunday***		*November 26* *First Sunday of Advent*	
	8:30	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	**8:30**	**11:00**	*8:30*	*11:00*
Assisting minister	Sue Rood	Denise Cook	Marilyn Frey	Bob Kynast	Pauline Ngonyani	Bill Oleson	Wendy King	Scott Kohs
Reader/ Comm. Asst.	Wendy King	Colleen Lundgren	Sally Schmuhl	Judi Huff	Karen Hinckley	Mary Kynast	Eric Standen	Frieda Williams
Ushers	Steve Bell and Keith Stevens	Scott and Lindsay Gaspari	Fritz Knauf and Jim Manore	Dave and Kathie Bradley	Walt and Sally Schmuhl	John Olson and Krin Jurgensen	Eric and Deb Standen	Jerry and Ruth Stelling
Acolyte	Troy Burrow	Grant Gacek	Brandon Burrow	Molly Becker	Carter Hohman	Meredith Gacek	Brooke Henderson	Mia Bradley
Nursery 1st	Janet Larson	Judi Huff	Darlene Kiessel	Mary Kynast	Marilyn Frey	Lindsay Gaspari	Karen Hinckley	Krin Jurgensen
Nursery 2nd								
Bldg. close		Bob and Mary Kynast		Bob Hopkins		Dave and Kathie Bradley		Brad and Marilyn Frey
Snacks	Irma Gorman	Bob & Mary Kynast	Deb Standen	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	Pat Breyen
Lawn mower		Karen and Peter Johnson	Tiller Lawn Mowing Service	Karen and Peter Johnson	Tiller Lawn Mowing Service	Karen and Peter Johnson	Tiller Lawn Mowing Service	Karen and Peter Johnson
Flowers	Gacek Family		OPEN		OPEN		Dennis and Colleen Lundgren	

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesda	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Holy Communion and Children's Sermon			**1** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**2** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**3**	4 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Break-fast at Galley Grill
5 *All Saints Day* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40a.m.SCS Classes 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Discussion Group	**6** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**7** 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**8** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers 7:00 p.m. SCW Annual Meeting	**9** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**10**	11 *Veterans Day*
12 *Commitment Sunday* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes 9:30-10:30 a.m. Pancake Breakfast	**13** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Newsletter Articles due	**14** 4:00 p.m. Vasa Meeting 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	**15** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**16** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	**17**	18
19 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes 5:00 p.m. Ephesus Bible Study Group	**20** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m.Church Council Meets	**21** 7:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Worship	**22** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**23** Thanksgiving Day	**24**	25
26 *Christ the King* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. SCS Classes	**27** 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	**28**	**29** 9:30 a.m. Golden Hammers	**30** 9:30 a.m. Bible Class 6:00 p.m. Bells 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal		